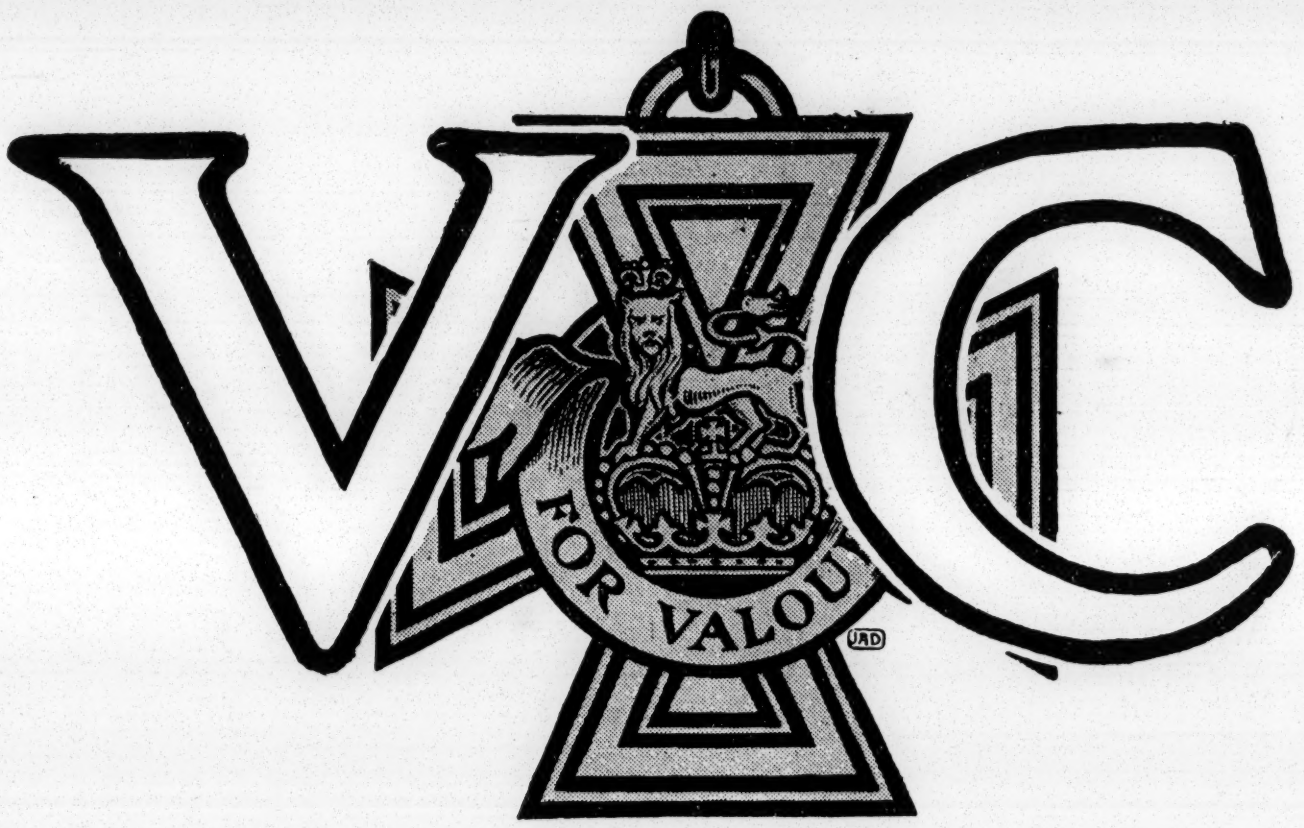
Supplement to "V.C.," 23rd April, 1903.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION, TO

Field Marshal Earl Roberts, V.C.

THE

BALLAD OF THE VICTORIA CROSS



WORDS BY

HAROLD BEGBIE

MUSIC BY

ALICIA ADÉLAÏDE NEEDHAM.

ISBISTER AND CO., LIMITED

15 & 16, TAVISTOCK STREET, LONDON, W.C.

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Ballad of the Victoria Cross.

Words by HAROLD BEGBIE. Music by ALICIA ADÉLAÏDE NEEDHAM.

Marziale con dignita.

VOICE. PIANO.

mf

1. I . . sprang from the yearn - ing mind of a Queen, as she prayed for her war-ri- or host, And she bade me gleam in the front of the fight and a - loft of the lone - ly post; Oh, pure as the spi- rit that set me there must the heart of the he - ro be, Who would win my crown on the fu - rious field or the plung - ing decks of the sea; Mine is the light that the sai - lor sees when the flames from the tur - ret flash, Mine is the voice that the sol - dier hears when the great guns shudder and crash, Mine is the prize that their

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molto ritard. mf a tempo. con tenerezza. rall.

fin - gers clutch as they reel at the gates of Death, And I am the priest of the strick-en field, who qui - ets their dy - ing

molto ritard. mf a tempo. rall.

Tempo di marcia. Con brio. con dignita. poco rit.

breath. I am the pride of the va - liant Brave: I am the shame of the cow-ard knave: Look through the world, Is there

Con brio. f a tempo. f poco rit.

Parlante semplice molto rit. a tempo.

proud - er meed Than the plain bronze Cross, . . . the Cross, ... the

molto rit. a tempo. ben marcato.

rall. 1st time. 2nd time.

Cross of the gold - - en deed? deed?

rall. f a tempo. f a tempo. mf poco rall.

2. Oh, I turn from the camp and the smoking seas, from the scream of the eagles' strife,
To the lonely posts of the marching world and the pitiless fields of Life,
Where the hearts of the valorous Weak meet Fear, and beat him back to the door,
Where the courage of God exalts the soul of the least of the fighting Poor;
Ah, never a day in the race of the years but is lit by a golden deed,
I am won, I am won, by the victor smile on the lips of the hearts that bleed!
Wherever for sake of another's need they reck of their lives as dross—
God knows I cling to their wounded breast as they cling to the Greater Cross!
I am the pride, &c.

Poco meno mosso.

mp

3. But ma-ny have won who shall nev - er wear; in the midst of the strife they fell, Or struck for an-o-ther where none could see and

Poco meno mosso. mp

Meno mosso. maestoso. f Meno mosso. f ben marcato.

nev-er a . . tongue could tell; Yet, bet-ter to earn and nev-er to wear, than slink to the shielding walls When Fear rides out in the

rall. a tempo. mf

flam - ing way, and the whis - per of Du - ty calls. . . Ah! ma-ny have won who have nev - er told, and they ut-ter no plaint of

rall. mf a tempo. sf

religioso. mf

loss, They know I am theirs by the sov - ran right that a - lone ob - tains the Cross, And they know they shall wear in the

mf

Maestoso grandioso.

rall. f Lento. a tempo.

Day to be, when they stand with the Un - a - fraid . . And the trum-pets of God, from star to star, ring out, ring out, ring

Maestoso grandioso. Lento.

rall. f a tempo.

Ped. Ped.

ff fff Con brio. Tempo 1mo. f

out . . . . for the Great . . . . Pa - rade. . . . I am the pride of the

Con brio. Tempo 1mo.

sf sf sf sf sf sf sf ff fff Largamente. f

Ped.

poco rit. con dignita. Parlante semplice. molto rit.

va - liant Brave: I am the shame of the cow-ard knave: Look thro' the world, Is there proud-er meed Than the plain bronze Cross, . .

poco rit. ff f molto rit.

a tempo. ff rall.

. . the Cross, ... the Cross of the gold - en deed?

a tempo. ff ben marcato ff rall. al fine. fff

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